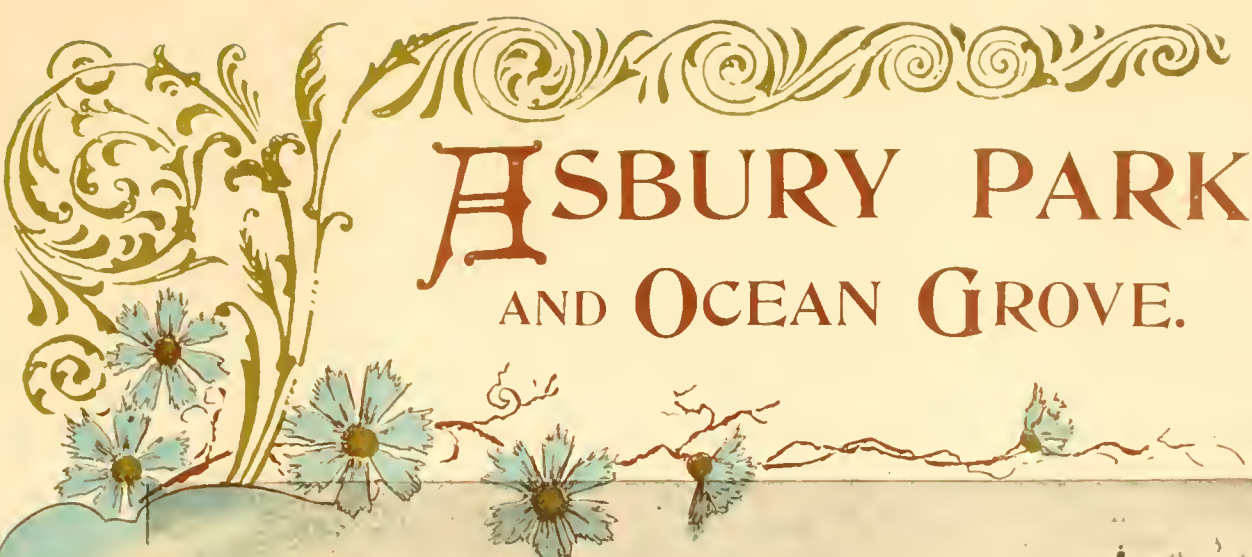


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ASBURY PARK AND OCEAN GROVE.



and
POINTS
of
INTEREST



NINTH THOUSAND.

ASBURY PARK ^{AND} OCEAN GROVE

WITH THEIR

POINTS OF INTEREST.

THIRTY ILLUSTRATIONS

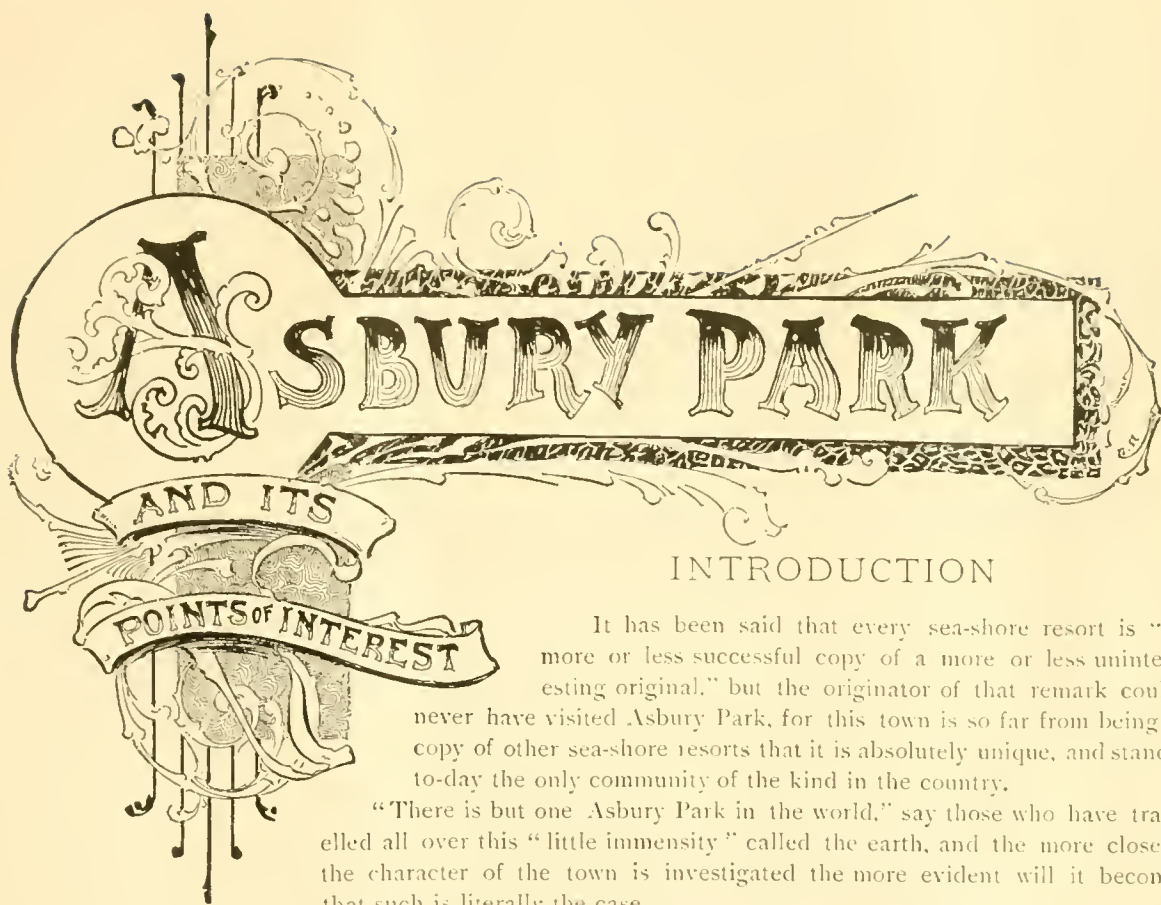
By GEO. F. BACON.

NEWARK, N. J.

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INTRODUCTION

It has been said that every sea-shore resort is "a more or less successful copy of a more or less uninteresting original," but the originator of that remark could never have visited Asbury Park, for this town is so far from being a copy of other sea-shore resorts that it is absolutely unique, and stands to-day the only community of the kind in the country.

"There is but one Asbury Park in the world," say those who have travelled all over this "little immensity" called the earth, and the more closely the character of the town is investigated the more evident will it become that such is literally the case.

Asbury Park is unique in situation, unique in arrangement and character of streets, unique in government, and unique as regards its combination of metropolitan conveniences and country simplicity and healthfulness. As a sanitarium it offers all the advantages derivable from an exceptionally healthful situation and an intelligent, impartial and thorough enforcement of hygienic regulations, based upon the latest approved principles of sanitary science and going to make up a sanitary code which is unequalled by that of any other American community. As a pleasure-resort it appeals, as no other resort does, to those who appreciate liberty without license, and that hearty sociability which never degenerates into undue familiarity. As a permanent home it holds out unparalleled inducements to those seeking a place of residence which shall combine the advantages afforded by such city conveniences as electric-lights, gas-lights, electric-cars, free mail delivery, etc., with a quietude, purity of air and water, absence of objectionable elements in the population, and other desirable features to a degree that no city can rightfully make claim to. Where can be found another secular beach-resort where "cheap Johnism" is absolutely prohib-

ited? Where can be found another village of 4,000 people which is so situated, equipped and policed as to be virtually one vast sanitarium? Where can be found another community so governed as to secure "the greatest good of the greatest number," to an equal degree? Truly, "there is but one Asbury Park in the world," and so admirable as a whole are the results which have been attained here, that the town—or rather the "borough," to give it its legal title—is well worthy the careful study of the social philosopher.



SECOND AVENUE FROM THE BOARD WALK.

SITUATION AND SURROUNDINGS.

Notwithstanding that more than 100,000 persons visit Asbury Park for a more or less extended season every summer, there are still many who know the place by reputation only and have very hazy ideas as to its situation and surroundings.

For their benefit it may be stated that Asbury Park is situated on the most easterly portion of the New Jersey coast: forty miles south from New York, "as the crow flies;" about fifty miles almost due east from Trenton; and about sixty-six miles east and north from Philadelphia. By rail it is distant fifty-one miles from New York; the express time being about an hour and a-half and the price of a single ticket being \$1.20; but a round trip ticket is sold for \$1.85. It may also be reached in summer by boat to Long Branch and thence by rail. Asbury Park being five miles south from that famous beach-resort.

Asbury Park is eighty-five miles from Philadelphia by rail; the express time is two and a quarter hours and the single fare is \$2.25, but round trip tickets are sold as low as \$2.50. The railroad service from New York and intermediate points is furnished by the Central Railroad Company of New Jersey, and by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and from Philadelphia and intermediate points by the Pennsylvania and the Reading Railroad Companies; but all these companies use the tracks of the New York and Long Branch Railroad. The facilities are admirable, the road-bed being of the highest class, the rolling-stock of the best, and the service frequent, accurate and conveniently timed; but the prices for passage and for freight are a little high when compared with those quoted at other important stations.

and there should be an early and radical readjustment of them. Some idea of the magnitude of the summer traffic here may be gained from the fact that the passenger receipts at this station often aggregate \$2,000 and the freight receipts \$1,000 in a single day. The grounds connected with the station are the most spacious and most attractive on the railroad, and the station itself is a large and conveniently arranged structure, but as regards beauty it is far surpassed by the North Asbury Park station, a handsome stone building, completed in 1892, and situated nearly half a mile north from the main or Asbury Park and Ocean Grove station.



SEVEN CHURCHES.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL. BAPTIST. ZION METHODIST. EPISCOPAL. PRESBYTERIAN. WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN, AND CATHOLIC.

North Asbury Park already contains many fine residences and is destined to become the aristocratic portion of the town, although in other portions of it one may also find so-called "cottages" that in elegance and beauty are matched in but very few watering-places.

ASBURY PARK AS A WINTER-RESORT.

At first thought it seems decidedly odd that a town offering almost unequalled advantages as a summer-resort should also hold out many and important advantages as a winter home, and it is not surprising that many who have experienced the grateful coolness of Asbury Park at times when residents of places a few miles inland were fairly sweltering under the burning rays of the summer sun, should laugh at the idea of Asbury being warmer than its inland neighbors during the period "when the arctic wind doth blow," and our old but erratic friend, Jack Frost, comes to the front. Yet such is the fact; and observations extending over several years show that Asbury Park is just about as much warmer than New York and Philadelphia in winter as it is cooler than those cities in summer, the temperature averaging about eight degrees warmer in winter and about eight degrees cooler in summer.

Just why the winter climate of Asbury Park is so mild is something of a mystery; or rather the mildness is accounted for in several different ways, some ascribing it to the influence of the Gulf Stream,



COOKMAN AVENUE FROM CORNER OF MAIN STREET.

some to that of the ocean as a whole, and some to the absence of conditions favorable to the long continuance of northerly and northwesterly winds. But "were reasons as plenty as blackberries," they would be of no special importance to the average man, for he is interested in results rather than causes, and the results at Asbury are that, as a rule, winter is long in coming and quick in going; frost seldom penetrates more than a few inches into the ground; snow stays but a very little while; and ice more than four or five inches thick is a rarity even in the most severe winters. Some of the residents stoutly maintain that the winter sun shines here with special brightness and fervor, and throws out genial heat even during the time when elsewhere "as the days begin to lengthen the cold begins to strengthen;" and doubtless they are right, to a certain extent at least, for the exceptionally pure atmosphere of this favored locality contains no smoke, steam or dust to intercept the health-giving rays of Old Sol, and in the porous and perfectly drained soil lurks no cold moisture to counteract the warming effects of the bright sunshine.

Of course, no claim is made that Asbury Park equals or even approaches such semitropical regions as Florida in the highness of its winter temperature; but on the other hand, the winter sojourner here is more positively assured of comfort than if he stopped at the average Florida resort, for the houses at Asbury are much more thoroughly constructed, they are equipped with apparatus which guarantees the attainment of any desired degree of heat during even the severest "blizzard" which may chance to occur; and blow high or blow low, rain or shine, cold or hot, the tourist is sure of comfortable quarters.

How is it in Florida during the "cold spells" which have so frequently visited that region of late years? Let such of our readers as have "been there" and have shivered and shook, and longed for "a real house and a real steam-radiator," as one very much disgusted Yankee tourist put it, answer for themselves.

Another respect in which Asbury Park is immeasurably superior to southern resorts is in general healthfulness. There is positively no malaria here—and this statement is made without reservation or qualification of any kind. Dig into the ground as deep as you please, at any point and at any time of year, and no disease-breeding germs will arise. This is because the soil is very light and



U. S. LIFE-SAVING STATION.

porous in character, because there are no swampy spots within the borough, and because the many natural advantages for the disposal of waste matter have been most admirably and completely supplemented by a system of sewerage which is simply unequalled. Add to this the fact that no other community, large or small, in the country is governed by so efficient and carefully prepared a code of hygienic regulations, and you will begin to understand why Asbury Park is never the subject of one of those profanely styled "mysterious dispensations of Providence," which sweep away scores, hundreds and even thousands by the effects of some of the numerous "filth diseases," as they are now called by physicians.

In the matter of sanitary regulations, Asbury Park is at least a quarter of a century ahead of any other community in America; and before you dispute that statement, point out if you can another town, village or city, which maps out the plumbing and drainage system of every building within its limits and holds its sanitary record open to the inspection of all interested parties. Of what practical use is this? Well, suppose you think of engaging board at a certain hotel or a certain boarding-house, or of renting a certain cottage at Asbury Park. The terms and the situation and equipment of the house are satisfactory; perhaps it commands a fine view and is a handsome, commodious structure. But how about its sanitary condition? How about such prosaic but highly important details as the character of the drainage, the location of closets, the number and efficiency of the "traps," the system of piping, etc.? In any other town you would have to dispense with information on these points or accept what was told you by landlord, owner, and perhaps by neighbors. In Asbury Park you call upon or write to the Board of Health, and are cheerfully and gladly given detailed and absolutely accurate information.

There is not the least suspicion of what is popularly and graphically termed "funny business," in this matter. The largest hotel and the smallest cottage are served precisely the same; and whether you

engage board at \$5.00 a day or at \$5.00 a week you have only yourself to thank if the hygienic service prove unsatisfactory. But there is practically no danger of that, for the same code that provides for reliable information on hygienic matters, provides for such strict regulation of plumbing and drainage work, and for so frequent and rigid a system of house to house inspection, that there is really no opportunity for the practice of "scamp-work" on the part of the plumbers, or for the exercise of the penny wise and pound foolish policy which some owners would otherwise follow. "Every new plumbing system,



FOURTH AVENUE.

including those altered or extended, must be tested by the plumber by the air test (five pounds pressure to the square inch) in the presence of an authorized officer of the Board of Health: all defective joints must be made tight and other openings made impervious to gases. Defective pipe must be removed and replaced by sound pipe." Mr. Porter L. Lippincott is chief Health Inspector, and with the aid of a suitable number of assistants he enforces the code without fear or favor and makes it decidedly warm, not to say hot, for those who wilfully try to evade its provisions. At nearly all southern resorts the well-informed visitor knows full well that deadly diseases lie, as it were, in wait, needing only favorable climatic conditions to cause them to spring into destructive activity. There is no skeleton in Asbury Park's closet: nothing to hide and nothing to fear. Visit the place at any time of year: peer into odd corners, penetrate the inmost recesses of public and private premises, and you will find no unsightly garbage heap, no ill-smelling corners, and no disease-inviting caverns. There is not a cesspool in the borough: the emptying of waste-water upon the ground is absolutely forbidden and severely punished; there is an abundant supply of the purest of water, and the wide streets and spacious house-lots do much to maintain that purity of air and that abundance of light so essential to health and yet so rarely found in communities of any magnitude.

Another claim which Asbury Park can make as a winter resort is in connection with the number, variety and beauty of its local and suburban drives, these being wonderfully attractive, and being so numerous and so capable of agreeable variation that their attractiveness is inexhaustible. The lover of ocean views may drive along just above the beach on a hard, wide road for miles; the admirer of woodland and "country" scenery may find it in great profusion while driving inland among the health-breathing pine forests and pleasant farm-lands.

The sea in summer is smiling and lovely; the sea in winter is more often grandly beautiful, and yet there are days in the very dead of winter when it stretches out an almost unruffled sheet of purest blue, and softly caresses the white and shining sands, which, perhaps in a few hours, it will lash with terrible force and heap up into long mounds only to finally smooth them down again to the hard, shelving and



PUBLIC SCHOOL.

are centered in the metropolis, and he cannot see his way clear to cut loose from business entirely, for New York can be reached in a comparatively short time, and there are many trains in both directions daily throughout the year. One very serious disadvantage connected with taking one's family to the South during the cold weather is the total absence of educational facilities; at Asbury Park the public schools are excellent and there are several first-class private schools in the town. Not another community of equal population in the State approaches Asbury Park as regards religious facilities; there is an excellent public library, an abundance of cultured and truly refined society for young people and adults, and, in short, nothing is wanting that would tend to make life worth living. No intoxicants are sold, rowdyism is unknown, and a lady may traverse the public streets at any hour without fear of insult or even annoyance, and, unfortunately, that can be truly said of but very few other communities of equal size in all America.

The expense of winter life here is but small, for rents are very low, groceries, provisions and other commodities are sold at really "bottom" prices, and the charges at hotels and boarding-houses are uniformly moderate. Asbury Park is steadily gaining in favor as a winter resort: half a dozen hotels are open now in winter, to every one that was open a

regular surface with which summer visitors are familiar. The beautiful sunsets, the gorgeous effects at sunrise, and the ever-changing and ever-charming sky, marine, and landscape scenes which have done so much toward building up Asbury's great fame as a summer resort, are present here in winter also, and what somebody has called "the sleep-compelling air, the appetite-forcing atmosphere" is at least as prominent a feature of the winter as of the summer Asbury. On this account and because of its cheerful and refined society, its accessibility and its excellent moral tone, Asbury Park may be called an almost ideal place of winter residence for the jaded business man, especially if his interests



THE LIBRARY.

decade ago at that season, and one need not possess unusual powers of prophecy to foretell the day when Asbury shall be a city in population, in winter as well as in summer, and shall at least share the honors with the older but in many respects less desirable winter-resorts which now enliven the Atlantic seaboard.

ASBURY PARK AS A SUMMER-RESORT.

To many persons a description of Asbury Park as a summer-resort will appear as needless and superfluous as an eulogy of the grandeur and sublimity of Niagara Falls or an account of the wealth and magnificence of New York City. But a description of Asbury Park containing no mention of its summer aspect, would be absurdly inadequate, and so, although we have no idea of giving anything like a detailed

account of warm weather happenings here, let us strive in a few words to tell what the summer Asbury is, and how it differs from every one of the almost innumerable other sea-shore resorts of our great country.

To begin with, it possesses the finest beach and gives opportunity for the most enjoyable surf-bathing on the famous New Jersey coast. During the summer months the water is so agreeably warm, the sand is so smooth and firmly packed, and the surf is almost invariably so lively and at the same time so regular and so free from "undertow," that even the weakest invalid who can stand surf-bathing at all, can bathe here with pleasure and profit, while the strongest swimmer is given abundant opportunity to display his strength and skill and to revel in old father Neptune's vigorous arms.

A great deal of utter nonsense and many exasperating lies have been written concerning the restrictions upon bathers here, and some of the newspapers, which are the most zealous in reproving (and incidentally advertising) indecent bathing-dresses elsewhere, are



ON THE SANDS.

never tired of poking alleged fun at what they are pleased to call the "absurd propriety" of Asbury Park bathing-costumes. But what are the facts in the case? Simply these. Decency is insisted upon; indecency or any approach to it, is promptly detected and as promptly ended, and, if necessary, punished.

There is not one paragraph, one sentence or one word in the few and simple bathing regulations to which any reasonable and wholesome-minded person can fairly take exception; they are enforced strictly and impartially, but intelligently and as gently as circumstances will permit, by an efficient police force under command of Caleb T. Bailey, than whom no more genial, popular and pleasant, but at the same time determined, capable and efficient an officer can be found in the State. The result is that Asbury Park is one of the few places where surf-bathing is largely practised, where one may walk along the beach at any time and in any company without having to ignore sights and sounds that should never be allowed to make themselves manifest in public.

There are more than 2,500 bath-houses at Asbury Park, and every provision is made for the safety, comfort and enjoyment of bathers.

But perhaps the most noticeable and gratifying feature of Asbury Park's beach is the entire absence of loud-mouthed hawkers, "popcorn-men," and the rest of that vociferous and highly objectionable family. Doubtless many of our readers have sighed for a place where they could stroll and scan the sea line and their fellow promenaders, and listen to the roar and rush of the surf without being rudely disturbed by importunate demands that they buy this, that, or the other trash, or "trow der ring," or "shoot der rifle," or do some other thing for which they felt not the slightest inclination. Well, such a place is Asbury Park. The entire ocean front with its "plaza, pavilions, bath-houses, broad plank walk and other great and costly conveniences belongs to "founder Bradley," and signs back of the crest of the beach announce that "no huckster, peddler, etc., is allowed east of this line." And this rule (like all others at this efficiently governed and policed resort) is strictly enforced. One of Asbury Park's proudest boasts is that it is entirely free from mosquitos at all seasons, (a freedom so exceptional among summer-resorts in general and New Jersey resorts in particular, that it is no wonder that new-comers laugh at the assertion although it is literally and exactly true,) but the freedom of its beach from the peddling fraternity is fully as gratifying to most visitors. The thinnest gauze will repel mosquitos, but nothing short of the strong arm of the law will keep peddlers at a distance.

It is easy for even a stranger to perceive something of the pride and affection with which Mr. Bradley looks upon Asbury Park, for many evidences of these feelings are to be found on every side, and particularly along the water-front.

A STROLL ALONG THE BEACH.

Starting from Deal Lake, at the northern end of Asbury's beach, we pass along Ocean Avenue, as the broad thoroughfare nearest the sea is called, and soon come to a polished granite shaft resting on a massive unpolished pedestal, and inscribed, "Near this spot the large packet-ship 'New Era' was wrecked in 1854." This monument was erected by Mr. Bradley, not only as a memento of this terrible shipwreck, by which 300 lives were lost, but also "to commemorate the fidelity of the life-saving crews, whose efficiency renders such a disaster at this day almost impossible."

Mr. Bradley is a firm friend of the life-saving service, and so is one of Asbury Park's resident ministers, Rev. S. Edward Young, who has worked long and faithfully to raise the wages and better the condition of the brave men connected with it, and whose efforts now give most gratifying promise of soon being crowned with success.



THE BATHING HOUR.

Close by the "New Era" monument is a genuine old "fire-tub" or hand fire-engine, known as "Old Washington," and, as a conspicuous sign informs us, "placed here as a plaything for children, with the request that no unnecessary damage be done it." And a grand plaything it is, too, with its gay paint, its "practicable" brakes, and its fascinating valves and levers. It is "manned" by almost innumerable lads and lassies every pleasant day during the season, and is "worked" in so vigorous and enthusiastic a fashion that its durability speaks volumes for the integrity and skill of its builders. "Old Washington" saw a good deal of hard service during its active days and has an interesting history of its own, but it is safe to say that the good old machine was never before so thoroughly appreciated and so highly praised as it has been since it was promoted to its present position.



SEVENTH AVENUE.

And the fact that it has been set apart for the use of the children affords an indication of the prevailing spirit at Asbury Park, for here to a greater extent than at any other sea-shore resort with which we are familiar, are the rights, the tastes, and the fancies of children recognized and catered to. They reciprocate by giving this beautiful beach the very first place in their affections, before all other resorts which they may have visited.

Asbury Park is really an almost ideal home for children, for its healthfulness, its unlimited opportunities for amusement, its excellent moral tone and its exceptional educational facilities, all combine to give it a position in the very foremost rank.

Some distance beyond "Old Washington" we find suspended from a stout beam projecting over the beach an object which never fails to excite curiosity and interest when seen for the first time. It is a great iron ball, several times as big as a man's head, attached to a strong but battered chain. Both chain and ball are not only incrustated with, but fairly honey-combed by rust; they look as if they might have laid beneath the sea for years, before being placed in their present position; and so indeed they did, for they served to anchor one of those apparently light and fragile, but really ponderous and massive buoys with which our harbors are studded.

On the rust-eaten surface of the ball is an inscription made with white paint, but now so scratched and discolored that it needs sharp eyes and considerable patience to make out that it reads: "Neptune's watch-charm, presented by Jupiter." And truly, the resemblance in form of this 1,400-pound ball and chain to a conventional watch-charm is almost exact.

The picturesque appearance of the beach is greatly heightened by the presence here and there of disabled but stout-looking row-boats, placed just above harm's way at time of high-water and bearing such significant names as "Ida Lewis," "Grace Darling," and "New Era." Besides these purely orna-

mental craft, are others less picturesque, but immeasurably more sea-worthy and efficient, which in connection with the frequent beach patrol and other less noteworthy precautions, render drowning accidents practically unknown here. It is said that bathing in the surf is more generally practised at Asbury Park than at any other resort on this coast, and certainly the facilities here, extensive as they are, are sometimes quite inadequate to meet the demand upon them. It is easy enough to account for this condition of affairs, for surf-bathing is so enjoyable that our beaches would be fairly swarming with bathers from



THE FISHING PIER.

July to October were it not for the coldness of the water, the danger of the sport, and the meagreness of the bathing facilities at many points, and as Asbury bathing is free from all these drawbacks its popularity is self-explanatory.

Another very popular amusement here is fishing. The opportunities for engaging in this sometimes lazy but always fascinating sport, are excellent and varied, for fresh-water as well as salt-water fishing is available here—the famous lakes of this region containing fish many in kind and reasonably abundant in quantity.

But still, salt-water fishing is the more popular of the two, and whether you sail with a gay party in some one of Asbury's stout yachts to the fishing-banks, or charter a sail-or row-boat and "go it alone," off shore, or try your luck from the fishing pier, you are as sure of good sport as you can be when dependent upon so notoriously uncertain an occupation as fishing. Asbury Park's fishing pier is one of her most cherished and popular institutions, and although severely buffeted and mauled every winter, it comes up smiling every spring, and after sundry replanking and other repairing, resumes business at the old stand and tries to get even with old father Neptune by aiding in the abduction of some of his innumerable and scaly children

A great variety of fish is caught from the pier, not including such trash as sculpins and sea-robins, which no true angler will admit are fish at all, but a distinctly lower order of creatures to be named and otherwise described in language more forcible than elegant. But the reigning fish of this locality, the monarch, before whose cold stare all other members of the finny tribe must hang their diminished heads—is the bass, and some splendid specimens of this royal fish are caught from the pier every week during the season. Five-pounders are not uncommon; ten-pounders are caught quite frequently, and fifteen and



A GOOD CATCH.

even twenty-pounders have been known to more or less reluctantly accept an urgent invitation to come in out of the wet and make their *début* before Asbury Park society; but these latter gentry are almost as rare as genuine Italian counts in America, and when one of them is captured the lucky captor "braces up" so perceptibly as to add at least an inch to his normal height, and is admired and deeply but secretly envied of his fellows for fully a fortnight.

Successful fishermen frequently have themselves and the fish (or, more properly, the fish and themselves) photographed, so that they may present ocular proof of their prowess to doubting friends long after the victim of their wiles has become incorporated with them in the form of a succulent "bake" or a savory chowder. And right here comes in a test of truthfulness before which the rack and the thumbscrews of the ancient torturer fade into insignificance.

The nearer an object is held to the camera the larger it appears; hence by holding a fish at arm's length in front of you it may be made to look almost as big as yourself. Our Asbury fishermen are very conscientious, as fishermen go,

yet we have yet to hear of a case where the fish was held the merest trifle *behind* the line of the body.

A little way south of the fishing pier is the life-size, bronze figure of a soldier in full uniform and with the familiar "army overcoat" on, standing on a stone pedestal inscribed, "Dedicated to the New Jersey Volunteers." The pose of the figure is very easy and natural—so natural in fact that from a little distance landward it looks just like a man wearing a "mackintosh," standing on a seat and looking steadfastly out to sea. Apropos of this deceptive statue a story is told of an Englishman who was visiting Asbury Park for the first time, in company with an American thoroughly familiar with the place. John Bull had been holding forth upon the hackneyed subject of American "nerves," and had just asserted that not an American could be found who would not "jump" at a sudden unexpected noise. "Do you see that man there?" said Jonathan, pointing to the bronze figure some hundreds of yards away. "Yes." "Well, I'll wager that I can steal up within a yard of him, fire my revolver, and he won't move an inch." "Done." So the American crept forward while the Englishman stayed behind so as to avoid all unnecessary noise. It was just about sunrise; the streets were deserted and almost perfect silence prevailed. "Bang!" went the pistol. The bronze figure didn't move a muscle.

We have reached the end of our walk, for the soldier is situated very near Wesley Lake, beyond

which is Ocean Grove, but before we separate let us read this modest-appearing sign, for it tells the story of Asbury's development in very few words :

"In 1869 Asbury Park was a wilderness without house or inhabitant. It was assessed at \$15,000. In 1885 it contained more than 800 houses and was assessed at more than \$2,000,000." To which we may add that it now contains nearly 1,000 houses and is assessed at more than \$2,500,000.



ASBURY AVENUE.

THE PLANK WALK.

In our "stroll along the beach" we purposely omitted reference to the plank walk, for this is so unique, so important and so popular, as to merit special and extended mention.

Were you ever at Asbury Park? If not you have no adequate idea of the possibilities of a beach promenade, and your education on the subject of plank walks is sadly incomplete. Imagine a promenade from 50 to 100 feet in width, and more than a mile in length, exclusive of that portion within the limits of Ocean Grove; the two walks being practically one however, and aggregating nearly two miles in length. On this promenade the residents of "the twin cities by the sea" and the many excursionists whose stay is confined to a few hours, meet and commingle in a gaily dressed and picturesque throng—a throng so great that at times, despite its hundred feet of width, the wooden way is so choked as to render progression difficult unless at a snail-like pace. Here you see everybody and his wife, the lively maiden and the grave elder; the worried business man and the vacuous and bored devotee of fashion; young and old, stout and thin; saint and sinner—a motley crowd indeed, but still averaging much better in general appearance and much higher in character than such a promiscuous assemblage as any other popular shore-resort can show, for there is no encouragement for the vicious, the drunken and the immoral to visit this beach, while on the other hand there are many special features here to attract those who are quiet and refined in their tastes, who do not find sobriety and a holiday incompatible, and who are not the less lively or sociable because they are self-respecting and courteous to others. Without the least disparagement, direct or implied, of other nationalities, it may be said that one of the chief recommendations of the typical Asbury Park throng is that it is distinctively American—and by this we mean not so

much that it is American by birth as American by training, by taste and by choice. Rich and poor are here, of course; the handsomely and the shabbily dressed; the exclusive and the democratic, but as a whole the assemblage is fairly well-to-do, suitably costumed, and frankly sociable; and nobly does it represent the great middle class, which in republican America as in monarchical England constitutes the strength and bulwark of the nation.

THE MANUFACTURING INTERESTS AND PROSPECTS.

There are very few villages having a permanent population of 4,000 which do not contain a single factory, but such is the case with Asbury Park, and such will doubtless remain the case until outlying sec-



DESTRUCTION OF PLANK WALK BY HIGH SURF IN 1890.

tions shall be annexed, for deeds of land in Asbury Park "proper" contain provisions forbidding the erection of factory buildings upon them—the idea, of course, being to avoid the noise, dirt and other evils which attend the operation of certain kinds of factories. But there are two sides to this as to every other question; a community which aspires to become something more than a mere pleasure and health resort should encourage by all legitimate methods the founding of establishments affording remunerative employment to men and women; and of late years the Asbury Park Board of Trade has been agitating this matter; has caused one large concern to locate here and has prepared the way for the coming of others. Of course there has been strong opposition to this policy from certain quarters, and it has been received with languid indifference by some others of the first-named class, believing that it will injure hotel interests and the indifferent ones denying that any special results, good or bad, will follow the introduction of factories; but it is difficult to see how the establishment of carefully selected factories in Asbury Park's suburbs can possibly injure the place as a temporary or permanent home, while on the other hand, they will add greatly to the wealth and resources of the community and enable expensive public improvements to be carried out without any great drain upon the resources of any individual. The borough of Asbury Park extends from Deal Lake on the north to Wesley Lake on the south, and from the ocean on the east to the New York and Long Branch R. R. on the west. On the opposite or western side of the railway begins "West Park," for all practical purposes a part of Asbury Park and yet free from restrictions (excepting such as may seem expedient to the individual owners of land) concerning

the use that shall be made of the territory. Or in other words, you may build a factory, of such a character that it shall not become a public nuisance, within little more than a stone's throw of Asbury Park station, or you may build one at Bradley Beach, at West Grove, or at other of Asbury Park's suburbs, and so share all the railway, mail, educational, religious, hygienic and general advantages of the place, and secure first-class operatives at wages lower than would be accepted at cities and most large towns, where the cost of living is higher. The chief need of the majority of the resident population of Asbury Park and vicinity is fairly remunerative employment during the winter months.



FIRST AVENUE.

During the summer, everything is "booming,"—a temporary population of more than 30,000 must be lodged and fed and amused; and great excursion parties sometimes aggregating twelve or fifteen thousand in a single day, must be taken care of. There is no lack of employment then: not only the hotels but all private residences which receive guests are filled to the limit of their capacity; the beach is black with people; the vast plank promenade is swarming with humanity; the broad streets are alive with vehicles of every kind; the smooth and spacious concrete walks are all too small to accommodate the throng of pedestrians. All is bustle and activity, and well-paid work may be had for the asking.

But with the end of the season a "grand transformation scene" takes place, and although every year now the season begins earlier and ends later, still for more than half the twelve-month the magnificent facilities of this ocean city are but partially utilized. There are two ways in which this very natural but unsatisfactory condition of affairs can be remedied: by the development of the region as a winter-resort and by its development as a manufacturing centre. At first thought these methods may seem antagonistic to one another, but they are so only in seeming, for nothing is surer than that the possibilities of Asbury Park as a winter pleasure and health resort can be developed without the least interference with the manufacturing possibilities of the suburbs; and the openings the latter offer for the highly advantageous establishment of factories can be utilized without the least injury to the other interests of this region.

Situated about midway between two of the largest cities on the continent and possessing first-class facilities for the transportation of passengers and freight; having banking facilities equal to the best; an excellent government; a low rate of taxation; an abundant supply of the very best class of help at low



MATTISON AVENUE.

rate of wages during the time when most industries are most flourishing—in the fall, winter and early spring—Asbury Park offers solid and exceptional advantages to manufacturers, and present indications are that they will very soon be largely utilized.

EARLY HISTORY.

It seems a trifle absurd to speak of the "early history" of a place not a quarter of a century old, and yet the beginnings of Asbury Park clearly form its early history, and brief mention of some of them is essential to an understanding of the present community.

It is often said that Asbury Park is an outgrowth of Ocean Grove, and this is so far true that it is probable that if there were no Ocean Grove there would be no Asbury Park either, for, as one writer puts it:

"The land was bought and platted by a capitalist who was moved to do so by the fear that it might fall into hands inimical to the religious objects held in view at the great camp-meeting grounds just below. He named it after Bishop Asbury, the pioneer bishop of the Methodist Church in America, and his title deeds prohibit liquor making or liquor selling. Extensive improvements of the wilderness of sand and pines were at once undertaken, and the excellent management exercised by its promoters has

met with a large and well-deserved success. The summer population now reaches 30,000, and a beautiful village, with hard and thoroughly drained roads, good sidewalks and paths, hundreds of hotels, business houses, boarding-houses and cottages, banks, churches, newspapers, an opera-house, a library and lecture hall, electric-lights, public water, and a plank walk a mile long on the sea-beach, connected with the esplanade of Ocean Grove, has arisen where twenty years ago was little or nothing."



RESIDENCE OF MR. MILAN ROSS.

The "capitalist" spoken of in the foregoing extract is Mr. James A. Bradley, the head of a great brush manufacturing concern in New York City. He purchased, in 1870, the first lot ever sold of the Ocean Grove property, and being in poor health he went down to Ocean Grove and "camped out," in the hope that the sea air and the breezes from the pine woods with which all this country was then covered, would invigorate him and steady his shaking nerves. Nor was his hope groundless, for strength and happiness were soon restored to him, and with their recovery came a strong love for the place where he had regained them, and an ardent desire took possession of him to

keep it from falling into the hands of those who, from carelessness or design, would suffer it to be degraded to the level of the ordinary beach-resort. The tract known as Ocean Grove, extending from the ocean to the Long Branch turnpike, and from Fletcher Lake to Wesley Lake, was secure enough, it being held by the Camp-meeting Association; but the land on the other side of Wesley Lake was a sort of unknown region, an extensive mass of tangled vegetation and shifting sands, and, as described by Mr. James A., or as he is always called hereabouts, "founder" Bradley, "Five hundred acres of wilderness and barren sand waste, without a house or inhabitant, and not a foot of cultivated soil on the whole tract."

Although assessed for but \$15,000, the land increased remarkably in value when negotiations toward its purchase were begun, and it was stipulated that the buyer must take the whole or none and must pay \$90,000—or only 600 per cent. of the assessed valuation. The Ocean Grove society decided by vote that it had all the land it could attend to and so Mr. Bradley had to buy the whole property himself and unassisted. As the possibilities of the site became more apparent it was freely predicted that the purchaser would reap an enormous profit on his investment, and so no doubt he would have, had money-making been his chief object, but this was so far from being the case that his very first important announcement concerning the sale of lots within the territory was declared to be suicidal from a financial point of view even by most of those who applauded his motives in making it. The announcement was that every deed would contain absolute prohibition of the manufacture and sale of liquor on the premises to which it gave a title. "Oh, you can never make a success of a seaside resort so near New York if you abide by that rule," said many to Mr. Bradley. But he was fully determined to stick to it, be the consequences what they may, and the outcome proved and proves that liquor selling can be very nearly if not absolutely prevented if one goes to work in the right way.

THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.

Another example of the non-moneymaking spirit of the founder is the course taken in the sewerage question, Asbury Park having been the first seaside-resort on the continent to adopt a perfect system of drainage. The usual course at the average beach-resort has been to discharge sewage anywhere and everywhere, trusting to the porous soil and the pure air from old ocean to avert the consequences of such carelessness (to use the mildest term by which it can be described). But that is not the way Mr. Bradley



A BEACH AND OCEAN VIEW.

does business. More than fifteen miles of street mains have been provided, to say nothing of house connection pipes, and there is not a cesspool in the entire borough. The sewage is discharged into the sea at a point many feet from the shore, and is so quickly and thoroughly dispersed through the vast body of water which receives it that not the least odor is at any time perceptible.

Still another evidence of the careful avoidance of a "cheese-paring" policy is that afforded by the wide streets, spacious sidewalks and numerous squares and other open spaces of this model little city, and it has been truly said that "there will never be another seaside resort from Sandy Hook to Barnegat Inlet with as wide streets and open spaces as Asbury Park, because nearly all the land north and south of Asbury Park has been mapped out or is owned in smaller parcels than the original tract of Asbury Park."

The streets cross each other at right angles, and, with the exception of several avenues which follow the shores of the boundary lakes, are "as straight as a die," and vary from 50 to 200 feet in width; those streets at right angles with the beach being at the least 100 feet wide—an advantage possessed by no other shore-resort in the State. As a rule, the thoroughfares running parallel with the ocean are called streets and those at right angles with the ocean are called avenues: the most noteworthy exception being the noble "Grand" avenue, 200 feet in width and extending from Wesley Lake to Deal Lake, about mid-way between ocean and railroad.



WESLEY LAKE AND LAKE AVENUE HOTEL

There are about fifteen miles of streets, all of which are carefully graded, smoothly surfaced and well drained. The sidewalks of Asbury Park are doubtless the best possessed by any community in the State, for every street is provided with them and they are paved exclusively with concrete, blue-stone or brick—concrete being by far the most common material used.

Mentioning the streets brings to mind the street railway, which makes a complete circuit of the borough and can convey passengers within two blocks of any point in it. The motive power is electricity, which is furnished by the company operating the railway, and some idea of the magnitude of the traffic over this line during the season may be gained from the fact that at the present writing the already large power plant is being increased by the addition of engines aggregating 600-horse power. This was the first street-car line in Monmouth County, and has been operated by electricity from the first. Extensions which will be consummated before the first of July, 1892, will make this virtually a double-tracked road encircling the borough, and sufficient cars will be provided to fully accommodate the immense rush of business during the season.

Asbury Park was also the first community of the Monmouth County coast to adopt the electric-light, the Asbury Park Electric Light and Power Co. starting their machinery June 20, 1885. It comprised a 50-horse power steam plant and a 45-light dynamo; and the growth of the business is best shown by the fact that the present plant aggregates 250-horse power, and is soon to be increased one-half. The company utilize some 70 miles of the best insulated copper wire, and furnish arc and incandescent lights and power. There is also an extensive gas-lighting system in operation here, and what with arc and incandescent electric-lamps and gas-lamps, the streets, stores, hotels and residences of Asbury Park are brilliantly illuminated. Oil lamps are used but little, and as the authorities are very active in preventing and punishing the sale of kerosene below the legal standard, fires are of comparatively rare occurrence at Asbury Park, and when they do occur they are almost sure to be promptly quenched, for the fire department is one of the most efficient in the State and is aided by a water system and hydrant service of which the residents

of the place may well feel proud. There are sixty hydrants advantageously scattered about the town, and as the water they deliver comes from a stand-pipe 125 feet in height, the pressure is so great that water may be thrown over any building. But dependence is not placed entirely upon hydrant pressure by any means: the fire apparatus including two first-class steam fire-engines, two chemical engines, hook and ladder truck, five hand-engines, and many water carts equipped with force pump and hose.



THE BABY PARADE.

The efficiency of the fire department has been repeatedly proved by the doing of prompt, skilful and wonderfully effective work under the most unfavorable conditions, and but one thing is lacking to make the Asbury Park fire service equal to that possessed by any city or town in the country, and that is an electric fire-alarm telegraph. The general use of the telephone throughout the borough affords a comparatively quick and sure means of giving an alarm, and a big steam whistle and a resounding fire-bell soon tell everybody for miles around that a fire has been discovered; but the weakness of the present system lies in the liability of delay in getting the news of a fire to headquarters, and as five minutes' work at the inception of a blaze is generally more effective than an hour's work ten minutes later, it would pay the Asbury folks to introduce a reliable fire-alarm telegraph as soon as possible.

The public-spirited Asbury Parkite is disposed to boast, just a little, about the local water supply, and his boasting is very excusable, for very few cities, to say nothing of beach-resorts, have a water system that can compare with that of this community.

Originally, water was obtained from driven wells, and almost anywhere in the borough it is possible to obtain an unfailing supply of soft, clear and generally palatable water by driving a well to a moderate depth; but water from all such wells is apt to become contaminated, even when all necessary precautions are taken in the matter of drainage as is the case here, and this fact taken in connection with the great

convenience of a piped system of water supply caused the residents of the Park to look about them for a source from which they could force water into every house in town. It was deemed inexpedient to draw from the lakes or from any other surface supply, and as Mr. Uriah White had been very successful in experimenting with artesian wells in town, it was determined to follow the path he had pointed out, and artesian wells were sunk at different points to a depth of from 400 to 600 feet. All of them flow without pumping, but the discharge is greatly increased by a little judicious forcing. The wells are all capped



WINDERMERE, STRANDED IN STORM OF MARCH, 1892.

and joined by 12-inch pipes which lead directly to the pumps, and the latter force the water into the stand-pipe and the street mains. The stand-pipe has a capacity of 100,000 gallons, and when it is full the pressure in the mains is 60 pounds to the square inch. There are two pumping-stations: twenty-one artesian wells, fourteen miles of mains, and pumping machinery of the most approved type: and the total cost of the system, including the sum of \$6,000 paid for the wells and mains purchased from Mr. White, exceeds \$100,000.

The water-works have (contrary to general expectation) been self-sustaining from the first and could not be bought to-day for double their actual cost. Coming from a depth so great as to prevent even the slightest danger of surface contamination, the water is exceptionally pure and wholesome, and after exhaustive analysis by Prof. Cook, State geologist, and by other expert chemists, it has been invariably pronounced clear, colorless, bright and sparkling; entirely free from organic matter, and absolutely pure and healthful.

ASBURY PARK'S HEALTHFULNESS.

It is easy enough to claim that a place is exceptionally healthful, but it is by no means so easy to prove the claim, even when it is fully justified by the facts, for proof involves the use of figures, and although "figures don't lie," it is notorious that they can be so manipulated by experts as to seem to prove almost anything. Of Asbury Park we say: It has a delightful climate; the drainage is perfect;



THIRD AVENUE.

the water and the air are pure; the summer nights are cool and restful; the winter is milder here than at other places in the same latitude; the pine-scented breezes from inland and the bracing winds from the sea are restorative and soothing; there is no swamp-land, no cold, wet soil and no malaria—for these and for other reasons Asbury Park is one of the most healthful as well as one of the most beautiful places on the continent." This we know is absolutely true, but in proof we can offer only the testimony of every one acquainted with the town, and the wonderfully low death-rate as shown by the following figures:

Rate per 1,000 among resident population (1890)	8.42
Rate per 1,000 among non-resident population (1890)	132
or one death in 118 of resident and one death in 771 of transient population.	

Last year (1891) the results were as follows:

Rate per 1,000 among resident population	8.94
Rate per 1,000 among non-resident population	93
Or, if all the deaths during the year were charged to the resident population, estimating the latter at 3,800, the rate would be but 16 per 1,000.	

The figures for the two years cited are by no means exceptionally favorable, and are fairly representative of Asbury Park mortality. Considering that many of the non-resident population are confirmed invalids and that a large proportion of the resident population is made up of elderly persons and of those who have come here to regain health, it must be admitted that the death-rate is phenomenally low, for

even leaving this consideration entirely out of the reckoning the percentage of mortality is very favorable, it being from twenty-five to seventy-five per cent. lower than that of the leading cities of the United States.

Many prominent physicians have spoken in the very highest terms of the healthfulness of the place, and physicians of all schools agree that as a place of residence for infants and delicate children during the trying hot weather Asbury Park has no equal on the Atlantic coast.

PARK HALL, THE CRADLE OF ASBURY'S INSTITUTIONS.

From the Asbury Park railway station, one sees on the opposite side of the pretty square, or as a Yankee would call it, the "common," containing the Goddess of Liberty statue, a two and a-half story frame building, brown in color and surmounted by a little belfry.

This building is not particularly large or attractive; on the contrary, it is small and dingy in comparison with any of the numerous business structures recently erected in Asbury Park, but it is well worthy of a visit and of special mention, for this is Park Hall—noteworthy as the cradle in which was nursed Asbury Park's schools, churches, fraternal societies and other public institutions. It was originally situated at the corner of Main Street and Cookman Avenue, the site now occupied by the "Ocean Palace," but was removed to its present location years ago. In the words of Mr. Henry C. Winsor, president of the Asbury Park and Ocean Grove National Bank: "Everything had its inception at Park Hall; here Mr. Bradley started the first school at his own expense, in 1874; here the early church societies worshipped, and here the various fraternal organizations held their meetings until other halls were provided."

The building is now occupied by the police department, health department and other branches of the borough government, and the large and airy basement contains two spacious cells for use on the comparatively rare occasions when it becomes necessary to place "drunks" or more serious if less noisy offenders behind the bars to await trial.

An example of how small it makes one feel to be put in prison is afforded by the feat of two individuals who were placed in a cell here in consequence of their having seriously assaulted a third party. News came to them that their victim had died, and so frightened were they at the prospect in store for them that they squeezed themselves out between the bars over the window and escaped, although there was barely six inches of space, and both were men of average size. They were soon recaptured, but as the assaulted party was not permanently injured, after all, they escaped severe punishment. Additional bars have since been put up so that now even a "midget" would find difficulty in squeezing through the window.

The basement is used as a court-room for the trial of ordinary cases; and jury trials and other legal cases of special importance are conducted in the large hall, on the top floor of the building. The intermediate floor is occupied by the borough officers, etc., and here may be found various objects of interest, notably a fine collection of photographs of the pioneer residents of the place.

Besides Park Hall there are many other Asbury Park buildings which deserve detailed mention, as for instance the fine Monmouth building, the elegant structure formerly occupied by the Asbury Park National Bank; together with a dozen more mercantile buildings, various hotel buildings, and some of the handsomest and most tasteful "cottages" on the New Jersey coast. But lack of space renders it imperative that these be passed by, and also forbids mention of the famous "Educational Hall," from the Centennial Exposition, of the Asbury Park Auditorium, with accommodations for 4,500 people, of the pavilions, etc., on the beach front, of the commodious and substantial library building, of the handsomest and most elaborately equipped "merry-go-round" building in New Jersey, and of other structures of greater or lesser note, including the eight church edifices, all of which are attractive and some of which are really beautiful. A long and interesting chapter might be written upon the residential buildings of the place, and in this connection mention should be made of the Asbury Park Building Association, the first financial organization in the borough. It was established in 1874, and its assets have increased from nothing to \$75,000, and at the same time it has proved wonderfully efficient in aiding the legitimate development of the town. The financial needs of Asbury Park and vicinity are admirably provided for,

and the capital, surplus and deposits of the local banking institutions now aggregate more than a million of dollars.

And they need to be large and efficient, for the business interests of Asbury Park, exclusive even of the hotel interests, are so extensive as to imperatively demand first-class accommodations. Although not a manufacturing town, this place ships many goods to out-of-town customers, and doubtless it will surprise many of our readers to learn that a great deal of furniture is sent from here, some being sold by local dealers to residents of New York City itself. The largest carriage repository in the State is at Asbury Park; the lumber trade exceeds \$100,000 per annum and has done so for the past sixteen years, great dry goods stores, extensive stationery establishments, large fancy goods emporiums, the largest and best equipped livery and boarding stable in New Jersey—all these and many other extensive and prosperous enterprises are significant of the present importance of the borough and are prophetic of what it may reasonably be expected to become in the near future. Already the out-of-town trade equals the local trade in average importance, and doubtless it will soon surpass it, for Asbury Park is the natural centre of supply for all the region adjacent, and the more rapidly and solidly that develops the more will this model borough prosper and expand.

Asbury Park is dependent upon no one thing for growth and support.

Its exceptional natural advantages secure its steadily increasing popularity as a health and pleasure resort; its situation and the enterprise of its people ensure its future as a trade centre, and hold out excellent promise of its future as a manufacturing centre, and the healthfulness and pleasantness of the climate, the character of the public improvements, and the nature of the population together with the beauty of the site combine to place Asbury Park in the very front rank as a place of permanent residence and a veritable "city by the sea."





MAIN AVENUE FROM PLANK WALK.

OCEAN GROVE.



OCEAN GROVE and Asbury Park are so intimately associated in the public mind that the individual character of the two places is commonly lost sight of, and they are considered as but different parts of the same community, like Philadelphia and Germantown, or like New York and Harlem, and yet Ocean Grove and Asbury Park are so far from being identical in government, in character and in object that they differ much more radically than do New York and Boston; or Chicago and Philadelphia.

The result of this popular misapprehension is that both places are often severely criticised when neither is really at fault, and when a better understanding of the facts in the case would not only avert condemnation but would draw forth praise in place of blame.

The character of Asbury Park is set forth in detail in the descriptive sketch forming a portion of this book, but for convenience of comparison let us say here that Asbury Park is essentially a secular community, and that although the standard of morality is high and great care is taken to exclude objectionable residents and demoralizing institutions, there is no intimate association of "church and state" in its government, and no claim is made that the surroundings and general "atmosphere" of the place are more religious than those of any other carefully and ably-governed Christian community.

The general character of Ocean Grove may be judged from the announced object of "The Ocean Grove Camp-meeting Association, of the Methodist Episcopal Church," to use the legal title of the society by which Ocean Grove is absolutely controlled,—“To provide for the holding of camp meetings of an elevated character, especially for the promotion of Christian holiness; and to afford those who would spend a few weeks at the seashore, an opportunity to do so at moderate cost, free from the temptations to dissipation usually found at fashionable watering places.”

That tells the whole story. To be sure the "Grove," as it is always called by those who have visited it, has developed immeasurably beyond the utmost expectations of those who drew up the by-laws from which the preceding extract was taken, and it is an open secret that a small but aggressive minority of the summer residents consists of those who find the regulations of the place irksome, although not sufficiently so as to cause them to prefer some other watering-place, but to quote from a late article in the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*, "This class are intruders, Ocean Grove was founded, as the Pilgrims founded Plymouth, for a refuge and a gathering-place, where those who believed in strict religious rules and ceremonies might assemble and enjoy a season of mingled rest and devotion, not troubling the world and not troubled by it. Its founders would have been only too glad to let the outside public alone if the public would let them alone."

In corroboration of the *Bulletin's* words let us quote briefly from a description of the origin of the Grove given by Dr. Stokes, president of the association: "A few of us proposed, in the simplest and most unostentatious way, to assemble from year to year, and enjoy a summer rest in bathing, fishing, worshipping, or sauntering socially along the shore, free from the heavy cares which we felt resting on us, welcoming from the immediate neighborhood such as might choose to join us in our simple service by the sea. It was no speculation—no scheme for raising money; no device of any kind; but simply and singly social, recreative and religious—mainly excepting the few neighbors who might desire to worship with us, for ourselves alone. The great world we did not seek but shunned, we wanted simply to rest and recuperate."

And as long as we have touched upon the subject of Ocean Grove's origin a few words concerning its early history will not be amiss. The grounds were first visited in February, 1868, but choice was not definitely made until the following summer, at which time from Great Pond (now Deal Lake) the northward boundary of the present Asbury Park, to Shark River, four miles south, the country was almost uninhabited. On the grounds now owned by the Camp-meeting Association there were but four inhabitants, and on the site of Asbury Park there was not a single one.

After the formation of the association, a part of the Grove was cleared from underbrush, lots were staked out, and a hundred subscribers for them at \$50 each were soon obtained. June 1, 1870, the subscribers came to pick out their lots, and by mutual agreement priority of choice was determined by auction sale, the privilege of first choice going to the highest bidder, and so on until all the lots were disposed of. "Founder" Bradley secured the first choice by paying \$86, and the lot chosen by him remains vacant to this day.

Some of the lots on the ocean-front brought but \$51, including price and premium, and have since been sold for \$1,500, or an amount the equal to aggregate of premiums received at the first auction sale, although that was considered a great success.

The first cottage was built in 1870, and before the close of that year there were sixty cottages erected; but they were small when compared with the average cottage of to-day, and for more than a decade the great majority of the summer residents lived under canvas—hence Ocean Grove's once familiar name, "The City of Tents." Even now many tents are utilized, the association owning about 250, and many being owned and used by private parties; but most



of the tents are utilized in connection with a frame house for a kitchen, and Ocean Grove as a whole bears very little resemblance to a typical camp-meeting ground: for the wide, straight and smooth streets are bordered by substantial and in many cases handsome elaborate cottages, set in the midst of velvety turf and bright flowers; there are twenty-seven miles of sidewalk paved with concrete or blue-stone; there are numerous electric-lights along every street, about 1,000 being used



PILGRIM PATHWAY.

altogether, and there are watering-carts, uniformed policemen, and other miscellaneous but unmistakable evidences of a public service worthy of a city. Besides, there are many less conspicuous but not less valuable accommodations, such as those afforded by a thorough system of sewerage; an abundant supply of pure water from artesian wells, an efficient fire-department, and other city belongings. Indeed, for a goodly portion of the year Ocean Grove *is* a city, that is to say a city devoid of factories, bar rooms, theaters, organ-grinders, peddlers, ragmen, Sunday papers, and tobacco.

The site of Ocean Grove includes all the land from Wesley Lake on the north to Fletcher Lake on the south, and from the sea to Long Branch turnpike—the total area being about 300 acres, or about three-fifths of that of Asbury Park. There is a frontage of considerably more than half a mile upon the ocean: there being two bathing grounds upon the magnificent beach, one at either extremity of the famous 3,100 foot plank-walk extending from Fletcher to Wesley Lake and there joining the mile or so of plank-walk within Asbury Park limits.

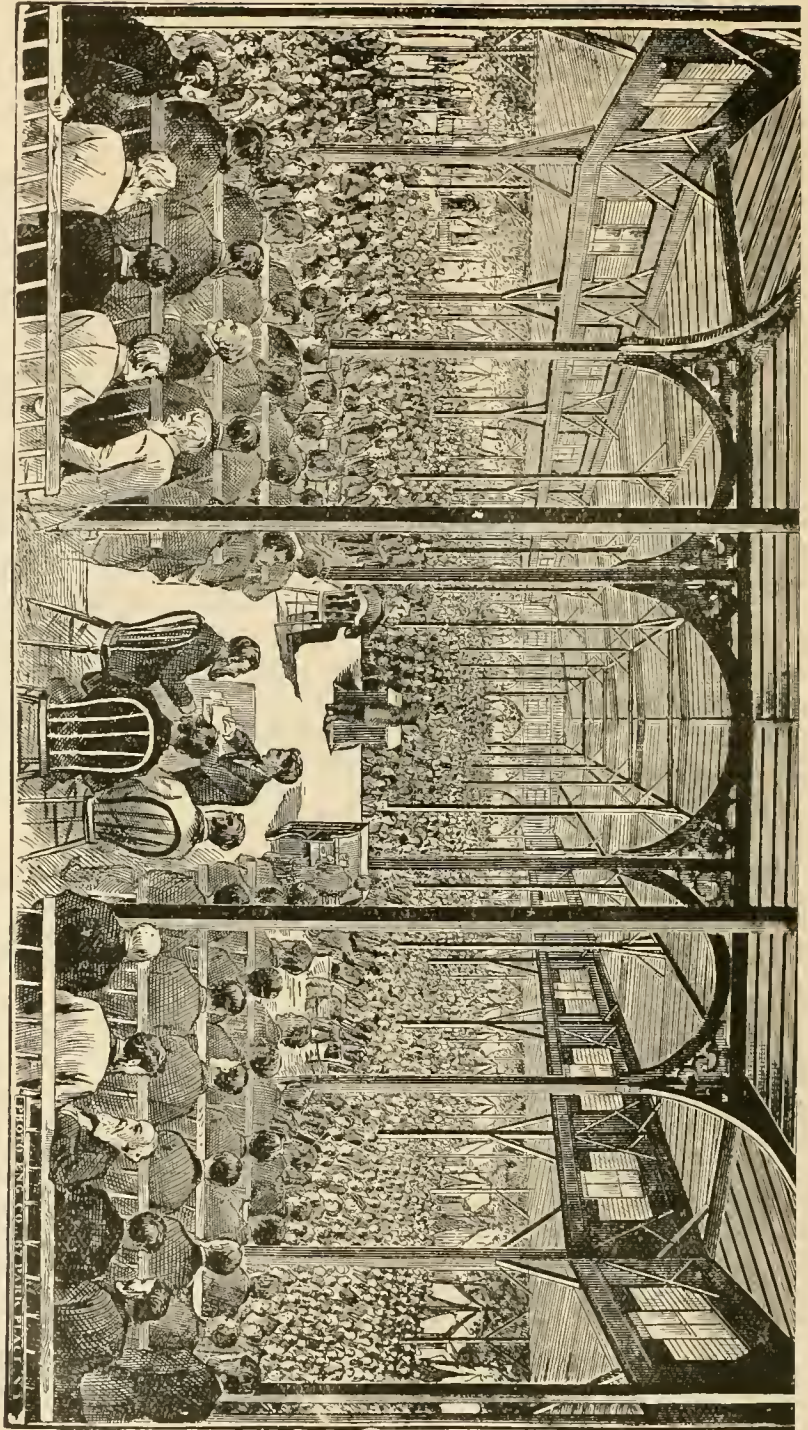
The entire tract is divided into generally oblong "blocks" by broad, straight streets, crossing each other at right angles and there are several parks and a great square space reserved for stables and hitching grounds, as in most other "camp-meeting" grounds.

The great "meetings" for which Ocean Grove is especially famous were formerly held on the beach, and later under canvas, but are now generally held in the "Auditorium" a vast structure, capable of accommodating six or seven thousand people, but not a bit too large for the purposes for which it is utilized, as audiences of three thousand or so are everyday affairs at the Grove during the season, while gatherings of four, five and even six thousand are by no means uncommon.

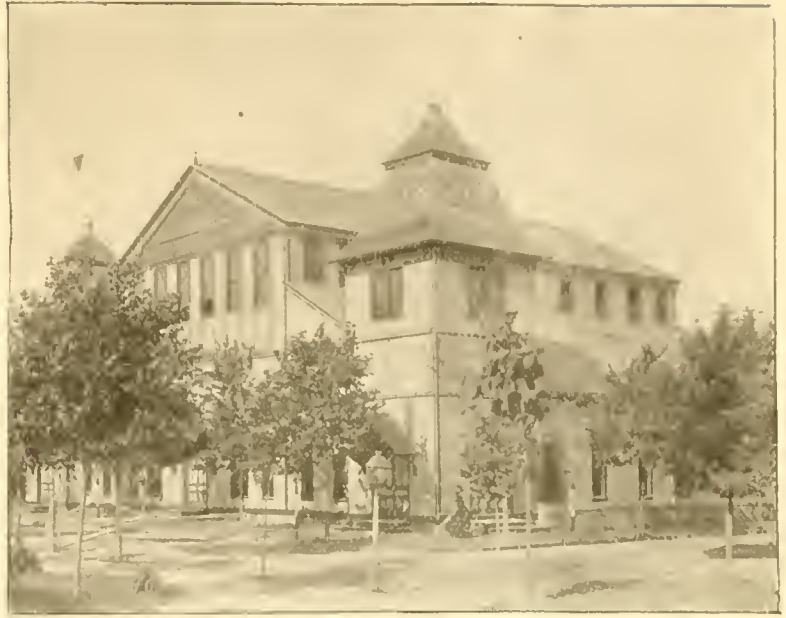
It is said that eight thousand persons heard the sermon delivered in this auditorium August 23, 1891, by Rev. Dr. Talmage. Besides the Auditorium there are various smaller places of meeting, such as the Tabernacle, the Young People's Temple, St. Paul's Church, and Thornley Chapel. Of the Ocean Grove gatherings it has been written:

"Thousands of religious people of all persuasions come from far and wide to attend these Methodist meetings. Many of the most gifted ministers of

THE AUDITORIUM.



the gospel from all parts of the United States and Canada, attend and lead in the services, and there can be but few ministers who have not been there, or do not hope to go at some future time. These meetings in the vast Auditorium are a grand sight to behold. Here seated in the open air with simply a roof over their heads, is found a great and earnest multitude worshipping God and raising their voices together in one glad song of praise. The beach meetings are also well worth coming long distances to see and to attend. On every pleasant Sunday afternoon they are held on the shores of the



YOUNG PEOPLE'S TEMPLE.

ocean and are attended by thousands who sit, lie, or stand on the sand."

But such of our readers as have never visited the Grove may jump to the conclusion that the presence of such vast crowds involves considerable disorder, confusion, noise and destruction of property. Well, in almost any other place than Ocean Grove, this would doubtless be the case; but offences against persons or property are of very rare occurrence here, and the following extracts from an editorial in the *Trenton True American*, headed, "A Remarkable Local Government" will go far to support this assertion:

"In all the vast crowds which gathered at the various places of worship and that thronged the streets of the town throughout the day and evening, there was not a single case of disorder reported, not any occasion given for the arrest of any person for misconduct. This peaceful condition was not obtained



THE BATHING PAVILION

as Napoleon III. made peace in France, by an exhibition of force. There was but one solitary policeman in uniform, and two or three in citizen's dress, and their duties were mainly confined to the giving of information when it was sought by strangers."

We have dwelt especially upon the characteristics of Ocean Grove as a religious centre, for these are what chiefly distinguish it from other summer-resorts, but there are other characteristics which it possesses in common with them, or at least with the best of them, such, for instance, as beautiful scenery, pure air, unlimited opportunities for healthful surf-bathing, fresh and salt water fishing, boating, yachting, driving, walking, bicycling, sociability, etc.



THE BEACH AT LOW TIDE.

Week days are lively enough, what with boating and fishing in the beautiful lakes or in the ocean, promenading along the celebrated plank-walks or engaging in some of the many other popular recreations here available; and if any of our readers look upon Ocean Grove as a "dead place" they are sadly in error, for a livelier or more enjoyable resort for those who hold decent ideas concerning amusements can hardly be found anywhere. There is quite a large permanent population and there are several strictly first-class hotels here, besides many lower in grade and correspondingly lower in price, and many excellent boarding-houses, and the summer population is fairly representative of the republic, every State in the Union being more or less largely represented.





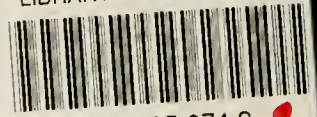


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